

MINUTES
OF THE
FOURTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
CENTRAL
Baptist Association,

HELD WITH
GOOD HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH,

COOSA COUNTY, ALABAMA,

INCLUDING THE
FIRST SABBATH IN OCTOBER, A. D., 1865.

MONTGOMERY :
BARRETT'S BOOK AND JOB OFFICE.
1865.



M I N U T E S

O F T H E

C E N T R A L A S S O C I A T I O N .

GOOD HOPE CHURCH,
COOSA COUNTY, ALA., SEPT. 30th, 1865. }

The CENTRAL ASSOCIATION met with this Church, in its *Twenty-first Annual Session*, on this day.

At 11 o'clock, A. M., the Introductory Sermon was preached by Elder T. J. Russell, from Matt. 22d c. 42d v. After a recess the body met at 1½ o'clock P. M., and was called to order by the Moderator, T. J. Russell. Elder George E. Brewer was appointed Clerk *pro tem.* Prayer by Elder E. T. Akin.

The letters from the Churches were read by Elders G. W. Gunn, and J. M. Russell, when the following delegates appeared as messengers from the Churches, viz :

FIRST DISTRICT.

Shiloh—W. S. Justice and S. B. Ray.

Spring Hill—(Neither letter or delegates.)

Mt. Zion, Talladega—T. J. RUSSELL,* James Walker, and J. M. Hart.

Friendship—Copeley Pearson.

Town Creek—(Neither letter or delegates.)

Elkahatchie—B. SKIPPER.

Providence, Taladega—R. E. Conger.

SECOND DISTRICT.

Bethesda—John Conner and J. N. Howard.

Union—J. A. Pylant, A. B. Callaway, J. D. Letcher, A. Castleberry and B. T. SMITH.

Harmony—L. Dodson.

Liberty East—James Gregory, William Gregory and Joseph Tucker.

Liberty West—J. H. COLLEY, J. L. Stanley and J. N. Saunders.

Bethlehem—J. B. Bullard, Joel Calhoun and H. Haney.

Refuge—George W. Wood and B. J. Flannegan.

Good Hope—Y. D. HARRINGTON, CHARLES GREGORY, F. W. Timmerman and A. W. Colley.

Mt. Zion, Coosa—(This Church has been dissolved.)

*Ordained Ministers in SMALL CAPITALS—Licentiates in *Italics*

THIRD DISTRICT.

Concord—GEORGE E. BREWER, O. C. Bentley and J. A. Suttle.

Antioch—E. R. Smith and W. M. Skipper.

Wetumpka—J. D. WILLIAMS.

Lebanon—William M. Lindsey.

Providence, Coosa—T. G. Flournoy.

Shady Grove—G. B. Allen, William Allen and William Pinkston.

Sardis—E. T. AKIN and H. Norrell.

Olive Branch—G. W. BEARDEN, William Hand and Andrew Deloach.

FOURTH DISTRICT.

Rockford—(No delegate.)

Poplar Spring—J. R. STEELY, H. JONES, J. J. Murphy and Russell Hand.

Mt. Olive—(No delegate.)

Betheny—A. J. Smith.

Weoguska—Benjamin Callaway and J. J. Veazy.

Union Springs—(Neither letter or delegates.)

Mt. Calvary—C. B. Henderson.

Mt. Moriah—(No delegate.)

Salem—William Castlebury, J. McLendon and MITCHELL MORRIS.

Rocky Mount—(Neither letter or delegate)

Holley Springs—R. B. Butler and W. M. Mahery.

The body then proceeded to the election of a Moderator and Clerk—Elders Gunn and Russell acting as tellers—which resulted in the choice of Elder T. J. Russell, Moderator, and George E. Brewer, Clerk.

Ministering brethren were invited to seats with us.

Upon invitation, the recently constituted churches at Holley Springs and Olive Branch, presented letters petitioning membership. The delegation from Shady Grove opposed the admission of Olive Branch, when,

Upon motion of Elder J. D. Williams, a committee of five was appointed to reconcile the differences between the applicants and opposers. The committee consisted of brethren Williams, J. A. Colley, C. Gregory, Harrington and Letcher.

Business was suspended for the purpose of hearing a communication from Bro. W. P. Chilton, which was read, received, and referred to a committee of seven; consisting of brethren T. J. Russell, B. T. Smith, William Lindsey, A. B. Callaway, James Walker, G. E. Brewer and B. Skipper.

The following committees were announced, to report during the session, viz:
I. TO ARRANGE PREACHING—Brethren Letcher, Ray, E. Smith, and the delegates from Good Hope Church.

II. FINANCE—Brethren Pylant, A. J. Smith and J. Murphy.

III. DOCUMENTS AND REQUESTS—Brethren Hart, Ray and Suttle.

IV. NOMINATIONS—Brethren A. B. Callaway, B. Callaway, J. McLendon, Calhoun and J. Gregory.

V. CORRESPONDENCE—Brethren William Skipper, Timmerman and Pearson.

Upon call for correspondence, there appeared from Tuskegee Association, Elders G. W. Gunn, J. H. Norton and B. H. Timmerman. Liberty Association, Elders William Harrington, J. M. Russell and Brother Phillips, who were received cordially and invited to seats.

The Committee to arrange preaching reported the following, viz:

To-night, Elders Akin and Norton. Prayer meeting at 9 o'clock, A. M., to-morrow. Missionary sermon at 11 o'clock, A. M., by Elder Williams, at the Church. Elders Skipper and Colley at school room, same hour. Elders Dunn and Steele at 2 o'clock, P. M., and Elders Brewer and Harrington at night.

The committee to reconcile differences between Shady Grove and Olive Branch, reported progress and were granted further time.

The Association then adjourned until half-past 8 o'clock, A. M., Monday, Oct. 2d. Prayer by Elder W. Harrington.

SUNDAY, OCT. 1st.

The order reported by the committee was observed, and after the Missionary sermon by Elder Williams, from 1st Tim., 1 c., 15 v., a collection was taken up, amounting to \$7,31.

MONDAY, OCT. 2d, 1865.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Elder J. M. Russell.

The Decorum was read, after which the roll was called and absentees erased.

Upon motion of Bro. Lindsey, the rules were suspended, and the report of the committee on reconciliation was read, received and adopted, as follows:

"Your committee on reconciliation between the applicants for membership, Olive Branch church, with your body, and opposers to the measure, beg leave to report that, after an interview with the parties, had seemingly failed to accomplish your christian design, reflection caused them to withdraw their objections. And, after its voluntary announcement to your committee, the brethren on both sides had a christian interview, in which their hands and hearts came together in love and fellowship, affording another evidence of the nature of true piety in its conquests over misguided prejudices."

J. D. WILLIAMS, Chairman.

Olive Branch was then admitted into the membership of the body, and the hand of fellowship extended.

The Treasurer not being present, there was no report from him.

Bro. W. M. Lindsey was, by acclamation, appointed Treasurer.

The report of the special committee on the communication of Bro. W. P. Chilton was read and adopted. Marked (A) in appendix.

The Clerk was instructed to write to Bros. W. P. Chilton, Thomas H. Watts, J. L. M. Curry, and to the State Convention, informing them of the action of this body, and also to furnish a Minute to each.

The Circular Letter (marked B) was read by Elder B. T. Smith and adopted.

The committee on Documents and Requests made their report, (C) which was received and adopted. Special attention called to this report.

A committee of three was appointed to report to the Association, a proper course to be pursued by us, as christians, towards those who were formerly slaves among us, in educating and morally training them. Committee, Y. D. Harrington, William M. Lindsey and E. T. Akin.

The committee on Nominations reported as follows:

"To preach Introductory Sermon, Elder J. R. Steely, alternate, J. H. Colley; Missionary, Elder B. Skipper, alternate, B. T. Smith; to write Circular Letter, Elder George E. Brewer; Executive Committee, Elders P. Stout, W. P. Lindsey, J. A. Pylant, J. B. Letcher and A. B. Callaway." Adopted.

The money raised by Sabbath's collection was appropriated to the support of our superannuated brother, Elder Joseph Hill, and a collection taken up in addition thereto in the body, both amounting to \$19,31.

The committee on Correspondence reported that nothing had come before them. Committee discharged.

The Finance committee made their report, which was adopted, as follows:

"Your committee have received,
 For Minutes.....\$60.09.
 Sabbath collection.....7.40.
 Collection for Bro. Hill.....11.91.

Total.....\$79.40.

Respectfully submitted, J. A. PYLANT, Chairman.

Report of Special committee (D) on the relation to be maintained toward the colored race, was made and adopted.

Correspondents were appointed to,

Alabama Association—Bros. P. Stout, B. T. Smith and J. D. Williams.

Liberty Association—Bros. B. T. Smith, H. Jones and Y. D. Harrington.

Tuskegee Association—Bros. B. T. Smith, J. D. Williams, T. J. Russell, E. T. Akin and J. Pylant.

Alabama Convention—The Clerk instructed to send Letter and Minutes.

Forty dollars were ordered to be appropriated to printing Minutes, and the remainder to go to the Clerk. Minutes of first district to be left at Bro. T. J. Russell's; second district, at Bro. B. T. Smith's; third district, Bro. W. M. Lindsey's; and fourth district, at Rockford.

Upon motion, the 7th article of the Constitution was amended so as to allow one delegate for every twenty-five over fifty.

A committee of three was appointed to report upon the death of Elder Joel Nichols Committee, Bros. Y. D. Harrington, C. Gregory, B. T. Smith and F. W. Timmerman. They reported as follows, which was adopted:

"The committee on deceased Ministers, report that Bro. Joel Nichols has left his field of labor, and is now in possession of that rest that remaineth for the people of God.

Bro. Nichols was born in Hancock county, Ga., on the 12th of November, 1797. He became a member of the church at Elam, in Montgomery, Ala., 1824. He was an active christian, and in 1835 was ordained to the Gospel Ministry at Valley Grove, Talbot county, Ga., where he labored a short time, when he removed to Chambers county, Ala., in 1836, and for some time was Missionary in the Liberty Association. In 1848 he removed to the Central Association, Ala., where he labored in the vineyard as far as his health allowed, until 1862, when his health suddenly declined, and on the 9th of April, 1865, the Lord of the vineyard called him home to his eternal rest.

Y. D. HARRINGTON, Chairman."

Unfinished business was referred to the Executive Committee to be attended to.

A vote of thanks was unanimously tendered to the brethren of Good Hope and the surrounding citizens, for their kindness and hospitality.

The Minutes were then read and approved, after which the body adjourned to meet with Shady Grove Church, on Saturday before the first Sabbath in October, 1866. Hymn 1152 was sung, and prayer offered by Bro. Holmes. The parting hand was then taken, while the hearts of the brethren seemed overflowing with that love which had beamed forth through the whole session.

GEORGE E. BREWER, Clerk.

Address, Rockford, Coosa county, Ala.

T. J. RUSSELL, Moderator.

Address, Island Home,
 Talladega county, Ala.

The District meetings will be held as follows:

First District—Friday before the 4th Sabbath in August, 1866, at Shiloh.

Second District—Friday before the 1st Sabbath in August, 1866, at Refuge.

Third District—Friday before the 3d Sabbath in September, 1866, at Antioch.

Fourth District—Friday before the 4th Sabbath in August, 1866, at Rockford.

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX A.

Report of Special Committee on the Communication from Bro. W. P. Chilton

We have considered the communication, and believing the glory of God will be promoted by the union of the various branches of the Baptist family, thus concentrating our strength for the defence of the truth; we therefore recommend the appointment of Brethren W. P. Chilton, Thomas H. Watts and J. L. M. Curry as messengers to visit and open correspondence with such bodies with reference to getting up a general Conference, by which the differences in the denomination may be considered, adjusted, and harmony restored upon a permanent basis.

Resolved, That we request all Associations that may yet hold their sessions, to appoint the same committee, giving them similar powers. Also, that Associations that have already been held, concur through their Executive Committee.

Resolved, 2d, That the State Convention be requested to take similar action.
T. J. RUSSELL, Chairman.

DADEVILLE, Sept. 27th, 1865.

To the Moderator and Brethren of the Central Association:

Dear Brethren:—I withdraw for a time from business which brought me to this place, to attend to the Master's business. I trust my heart is inditing a good matter, and I beg your prayerful consideration of it. It is this:

Our Zion is divided. Instead of one fold and one shepherd, we have many folds. Instead of being one, as the blessed Redeemer and his Father are one, we are many—divided into factions—Missionaries, Primitives, Campbellites, Whiteites, &c., &c. All this is wrong. Shall no effort be made to rectify and correct it? Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there none among us who are able, by the grace of our Divine Master, to set on foot some plan, by which all difficulties to our union, all obstacles which separate us, can be surmounted, and peace and harmony be restored? I believe this can be done; and your Body may become the initiator of this great peace measure, by appointing, say three brethren, as Commissioners to confer with a similar Commission to be appointed by the Baptists who differ with us, to agree with us on terms of reconciliation, and report the same to their respective bodies for their confirmation or rejection.

Brethren, think of this matter, and see if your wisdom cannot devise some plan by which we can have peace and union, and thus promote the glory of God and the welfare of our race. May the good Lord prosper and preside over your deliberations.

Yours, in Christ,

W. P. CHILTON.

APPENDIX B.

Dear Brethren:—In these times of great civil confusion, we have a desire to direct your minds to the solemn truth, that our Holy religion teaches that knowledge is life, and ignorance is death. We shall not attempt to prove this by lengthy argument, but simply by reference to a few passages in the record. The last prayer of the Saviour teaches, John 17, 3: "This is life eternal, that they might know the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent." And again, John 8: "If ye had known me, ye would have known my Father also," &c. On the other hand, we have Luke 19, 42: "If thou hadst known,

even thou, in this thy day, the things which belong to thy peace; but now they are hid from thine eyes." And, again, John 4: "Jesus answered and said unto her: "If thou knowest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, give me to drink, thou wouldest have asked of Him, and He would have given thee living water," &c. Hence, we conclude that the highest instruction we can give, is to be found in John 5, 19: "SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES."

Read, search, penetrate as far as we can, the Divine mind, and learn to do His will, and great will be the reward. Remembering as Tim. 4: 5, teaches, that all things are sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

B. T. SMITH.

APPENDIX C.

Report of Committee on Documents and Requests.

The Committee to whom was referred the subject of Documents and Requests, have had nothing brought before them demanding attention, except in the Letter from the Church at Liberty West, in which we find the following paragraph: "We ask the views of the body relative to the colored part of the membership of a church, or those of them who leave their former homes without the consent of their owners, and whether or not we could grant such members Letters in fellowship to join any other Church?"

In answer to the query propounded, the Committee beg leave to report, that in their opinion, those who left prior to the enforcement of the proclamation of the President of the United States, declaring them free, were in disorder, and are subject to the discipline of the Church; such as have left since that time, if their walk and conduct otherwise is such as a child of God should be, they are entitled to Letters, except in the cases of those who have violated contracts.

Respectfully submitted,

J. M. HART, Chairman.

APPENDIX D.

The Committee to report upon the relation of the colored race to the whites, have had the matter under consideration so short a time that it is impossible to make a report upon the subject, satisfactory to ourselves or the Association. Considering the circumstances under which they have been placed in their present condition, the influences brought to bear upon them to estrange them from their former owners, we would recommend an enlarged christian charity in our intercourse with them, in order that we may win back their confidence and affection.

The education of the race is a subject of grave importance, but one on which our limited time will not allow us to make any suggestions. That their elevation as a race is demanded by the general interest of society all must admit.

We would recommend our churches and pastors to extend every facility for their religious and moral instruction, and allow them to hold their former relation to us in our churches.

In view of the scarcity of provisions, resulting from the interruption of the labor system of the country, we would recommend the planting of large provision crops, which we believe necessary to the preservation of both races.

W. M. LINDSEY, Chairman,

NAMES OF CHURCHES.	NAMES OF PASTORS.	CLERKS.	POST OFFICE.	Baptized.	R'd by letter.	Restored.	Dismissed by Letter.	Excluded.	Dead.	Total.	For Minutes.
Shiloh.....	B. Skipper.....	S. B. Ray.....	Nixburg.....	1	1	1	6	6		70	\$3 00
Spring Hill.....	T. J. Russell.....	J. M. Hart.....	Island Home.....	1	1	1	2	1	1	54	3 00
Mt. Zion.....	A. G. Rains.....	C. H. Wright.....	Bradford.....	4	3	2	6	1	1	30	3 00
Friendship.....				4	3	2	1	1		46	
Town Creek.....	B. Skipper.....	W. H. Maxwell.....	Adams Store.....	1st	5		1	1	1	52	2 00
Elkahatchie.....	H. L. Hariaa.....	J. J. Burke.....	Pinneyville.....	2d	3		3	3	1	71	3 00
Providence, Taladega.....	J. H. Colley.....	J. H. Wilbanks.....	Equality.....	2d	3		3	3	3	68	1 50
Bethesda.....	B. Skipper.....	W. F. Staumate.....	Central Institute.....	2d	3		11	3	1	150	3 00
Union.....	Y. D. Harrington.....	J. Will.....	Equality.....	4th	2	1	7	2	1	45	1 50
Harmony.....	J. H. Colley.....	J. Gregory.....	Dadeville.....	3d	1	1	4	11	3	100	3 00
Liberty East.....	J. H. Colley.....	W. M. Russell.....	Fish Pond.....	4th	1	1	2	1	1	48	2 00
Liberty West.....	J. H. Colley.....	J. F. Butler.....	Notasuga.....	1st	2	1	8	1	1	24	1 00
Bethlehem.....	J. H. Norton.....	George W. Wood.....	Chaneyhatchie.....	2d	7	2	1	6	1	120	3 00
Refuge.....	Y. D. Harrington.....	W. D. Thompson.....	Wetumpka.....	2d	2	1	3	1	3	81	3 00
Good Hope.....	J. M. Russell.....	O. C. Dentley.....	Nixburg.....	3d	8	3	6	4	3	303	2 98
Concord.....	B. Skipper.....	W. Thaxton.....	Baykville.....	2d	6	4	1	1	1	41	2 00
Antioch.....	R. Figh.....	P. Scent.....	Wetumpka.....	1st	1		1	1	1	47	1 60
Lebanon.....	E. T. Atkins.....	W. M. Lindsey.....	Baykville.....	3d	1	2	13	1	8	62	1 50
Providence, Coosa.....	J. M. Willis.....	T. J. Hull.....	Traveler's Rest.....	2d	3	1	12	1	3	70	1 00
Shady Grove.....	E. T. Atkins.....	F. M. Allen.....	Rockford.....	4th	12	15	4	1	2	35	1 50
Sardis.....	E. T. Atkins.....	W. J. Akns.....	Traveler's Rest.....	1st	33	13	4	1	2	52	1 50
Olive Branch.....	H. Jones.....	William Holley.....	Rockford.....	3d	3	1	3	1	1	165	4 00
Rockford.....	H. Jones.....	J. S. Bentley.....	Rockford.....	3d	13	1	3	1	1	70	1 00
Poplar Spring.....	H. Jones.....	J. A. Logan.....	Hanover.....	2d	2	2	4	1	1	87	1 50
Mt. Olive.....	J. R. Steely.....	W. C. Brown.....	Mt. Olive.....	2d	2	2	4	1	1	96	2 00
Bethany.....	J. S. Holmes.....	A. J. Smith.....	Sylacanga.....	1st	11	5	4	1	1	118	
Weogufka.....	E. T. Atkins.....	J. J. Veazey.....	Weogufka.....	2d	18		9	3	1	24	1 00
Union Springs.....	E. T. Atkins.....	J. J. Veazey.....	Marble Valley.....	1st	5	2	1	1	1	57	2 00
Mt. Calvary.....	M. Parker.....	J. Pate.....	Marble Valley.....	2d	2		2	1	1	100	1 51
Mt. Moriah.....	H. Jones.....	William A. Wilson.....	Weogufka.....	1st	7		2	1	1	57	
Salem.....	J. R. Steely.....	J. McClendon.....	Rockford.....	3d	2	5				23	1 00
Rocky Mount.....			Marble Valley.....								
Holley Springs.....	M. Morris.....	J. Robinson.....	Marble Valley.....								
TOTALS.....				194	96	81	9	128	34	36	2304 60 09

*Totals from these Churches taken from last report.

STANDING ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Hear Letters from Churches.
2. Elect a Moderator and Clerk.
3. Invite Ministering Brethren to seats.
4. Call for Petitions from Churches desiring to unite.
5. Appoint Committees to report during the Session.
 - I. To Arrange Preaching.
 - II. On Finance and Auditing.
 - III. On Documents and Requests.
 - IV. On Nominations.
 - V. On Correspondence.
6. Call for Correspondence.
7. Have Rules of Decorum read.
8. Call Roll and erase absentees.
9. Hear Treasurer's Report and refer
10. Elect Treasurer.
11. Hear Circular Letter.
12. Hear reports from Committees.
13. Give instructions about appropriations.
14. Hear miscellaneous resolutions.
15. Return Correspondence.
16. Make arrangements for printing Minutes.
17. Correct Minutes and adjourn.